

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 088711

O P 250951Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2233

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1680

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO PORTUGUESE

REF: STATE 65523

1. U.K. AMBASSADOR MADE HIS DEMARCHE TO COSTA GOMES LAST NIGHT (MARCH 24). SAID COSTA GOMES TOOK CAREFUL NOTE BUT HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN RESPONSE. MOST INTERESTING COMMENTS FROM COSTA GOMES WERE THAT EACH CRISIS SEEMS TO MOVE GOVERNMENT FURTHER TO THE LEFT AND HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY MARCH 11 COUP WAS SO BADLY BUNGLED.

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2. U.K. AMBASSADOR SAID HE STUCK VERY CLOSE TO HIS INSTRUC-

TIONS, BUT DID PRESS COSTA GOMES FURTHER ON WHETHER ELECTIONS WOULD REALLY BE FREE IF CERTAIN PARTIES WERE INTIMIDATED. COSTA GOMES RESPONSE WAS TO GIVE HIM A "LECTURE" TO THE EFFECT THAT IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY RIGHTIST PARTIES CAME UNDER ATTACK WHILE IN OTHER PARTS LEFTIST PARTIES WERE THE VICTIMS.

3. IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE OUR VIEWS WERE KNOWN BY MARCH 24 (STATE 65523) I CALLED ON HIS CHIEF OF CABINET FERREIRA DA CUNHA LAST NIGHT AND REVIEWED TALKING POINTS WITH HIM. TOLD HIM I DOING THIS SO PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO RESPOND TODAY.

4. FERREIRA DA CUNHA OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE ANY RESPONSE, BUT HE DID OFFER SOME "PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS." ONE WAS THAT THE REAL POWER RESTS WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND HE COULD ASSURE US THAT NO ONE ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WAS ALLIED TO ANY PARTICULAR PARTY. AS FAR AS NATO WAS CONCERNED REAL QUESTION WAS NOT PORTUGUESE ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO BUT NATO ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL; AFTER ALL HADN'T NATO TAKEN THE FIRST STEP BY EXCLUDING PORTUGAL FROM DELIBERATIONS OF NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP?

5. GERMAN AMBASSADOR TELLS ME HE NOW HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE COSTA GOMES TODAY. WE WILL COORDINATE IN ADVANCE OF OUR APPOINTMENTS.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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